

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for exposing transaction status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

a trading partner exchange electronically receiving an order creation notification of an order created in from a first trading partner system, said received order creation notification being associated with a first trading partner system identifier, said created order defining initiating a transaction between a customer and a first trading partner;

responsive to receiving the order creation notification, the trading partner exchange automatically assigning a unique transaction identifier to the transaction;

the trading partner exchange electronically receiving at least one order notification of an order activity from at least a second trading partner system, the at least one order notification describing indicating an action of a second trading partner corresponding to the transaction and having being associated with a second trading partner system identifier, wherein said first trading partner system and said at least ~~[[a]]~~ second trading partner system are disparate systems that jointly define a transaction processing chain;

responsive to receiving the order activity notification, the trading partner exchange automatically associating said unique transaction identifier to said second trading partner system identifier;

the trading partner exchange ~~associating~~ linking said unique transaction identifier to with said order creation notification and said at least one order activity notification ~~first trading partner system identifier and said second trading partner system identifier,~~ wherein cross referencing the first and second trading partner system identifiers using the

unique transaction identifier provides a status of the transaction at a point in the transaction processing chain; and

the trading partner exchange electronically reporting status of the transaction via an integrated access interface.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said linking step comprises:

providing the trading partner exchange having the integrated access interface communicatively linked to an access platform, said access platform having a plurality of layers through which access to the trading partner exchange is provided, said layers including an access layer, a display layer, and an analytical layer, wherein the access layer provides access through a plurality of different communication channels, wherein the display layer provides different views for different types of trading partners, wherein the analytical layer provides reports, and wherein trading partners using disparate computing systems are able to access reports of the analytical layer through views of the display layer via communication channels of the access layer, said disparate computing systems including the first trading partner system and the second trading partner system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said reporting step is responsive to a query received from an access platform linked to the integrated access interface, said access platform accessible by customers and said trading partners.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

receiving at a central exchange, an initial order creation notification for an initiated transaction from one of a plurality of trading partners in a transaction processing

chain having disparate systems, said central exchange and assigning a unique identifier for said initial order to said initiated transaction, wherein an identifier associated with said order creation notification is linked with said unique identifier;

receiving at a central exchange, an order activity notification associated with said initiated transaction from at least another of said plurality of trading partners and linking an identifier identifying an associated with said order activity status notification from said trading partners for said transaction to said unique identifier,

wherein cross referencing said identifier associated with said order creation notification and said identifier associated with said order activity notification using the unique transaction identifier provides a status of the transaction at a point in the transaction processing chain; and

responsive to a request for status information, providing said requested status information to a requester based on said linked identifier and said unique identifier via an access platform, said requested information formatted for a selected channel, wherein the central exchange has an integrated access interface communicatively linked to the access platform, the access platform having a plurality of layers through which access to the central exchange is provided, said layers including an access layer, a display layer, and an analytical layer, wherein the access layer provides access through a plurality of different communication channels, and wherein the display layer provides different views for different types of trading partners; and wherein the analytical layer provides reports, wherein trading partners using disparate computing systems are able to access reports of the analytical layer through views of the display layer via communication channels of the access layer.

5. (Previously Withdrawn) A system for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

a trading partner exchange (TPE) communicatively interfaced to a plurality of trading partners, said TPE identifying an initial transaction and linking corresponding trading partner transaction status information with said initial transaction;

an access platform communicatively interfaced with said TPE, said access platform formatting said transaction status information according to a selected channel format; and

an access interface communicatively linked to said TPE, said access interface facilitating communication with said access platform.

6. (Previously Withdrawn) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving an order from a first trading partner system, said order initiating a transaction;

linking a status reported by a second trading partner system corresponding to said transaction, wherein said first trading partner system and said second trading partner systems are disparate systems; and

reporting said linked status corresponding to said transaction, said status formatted for a particular channel.

7. (Previously Withdrawn) The machine readable storage of claim 6, wherein said linking step comprises:

receiving an identifier for said status reported by said second trading partner, said identifier corresponding to said transaction; and

linking said received identifier to an assigned unique identifier corresponding to said transaction.

8. (Previously Withdrawn) The machine readable storage according to claim 6, wherein said reporting step is responsive to a query received from an access platform, said access platform accessible by customers and said trading partners.

9. (Previously Withdrawn) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving at a central exchange, an initial order for a transaction from one of a plurality of trading partners having disparate systems, said central exchange assigning a unique identifier for said initial order to said transaction, said receiving step for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems;

linking an identifier identifying an activity status from said trading partners for said transaction to said unique identifier; and

responsive to a request for information, providing said requested information to a requester based on said linked identifier and said unique identifier, said requested information formatted for a selected channel.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first trading partner system and said second trading partner system are independently developed systems having different architectures.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, within the trading partner exchange is remotely located from the first trading partner system and the second trading partner system.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

utilizing the unique transaction identifier to interface the trading partner exchange with the first trading partner system and to interface the trading partner exchange with the second trading partner system for communications associated with the transaction.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

the trading partner exchange including a status record associated with the unique transaction identifier, said status record being used by the trading partner exchange to generate a status of the transaction at [[at]] least one logical point in the transaction processing chain.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

linking the first trading partner system to the unique transaction identifier using the first trading partner system identifier; and

linking the second trading partner system to the unique transaction identifier using the second trading partner system identifier.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

the trading partner exchange receiving from a third trading partner system an additional activity notification indicating another action corresponding to the transaction and having a third trading partner system identifier, wherein the reported status is based upon the additional activity notification.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the first trading partner system uses the integrated access interface to access the trading partner exchange

through an access channel and wherein the second trading partner system uses the integrated access interface to access the trading partner exchange through a different access channel.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the trading partners comprise a customer, a distributor, and a manufacturer, said method further comprising the step of:

the customer, the distributor, and the manufacturer accessing the status of the transaction through the integrated access interface.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the integrated access interface provides a plurality of access channels for communicating to the trading partner exchange.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein said disparate systems are independently developed systems having different architectures.